



A Kid Again[®]
Giving illness a time out



Chairman Dolan, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Finance Committee:

My name is Jared Buerger from A Kid Again. A Kid Again was thrilled to learn that amendment SC1233X1 introduced by Senator Kunze was included in the Senate Substitute Bill. This will have a major impact in the lives of families raising children with life-threatening conditions throughout the State of Ohio.

A Kid Again provides year-round events for children with life-threatening medical conditions across the State of Ohio, we call these events an Adventure. A Kid Again Adventures provide families an opportunity to allow their child with a medical condition to experience joy while also allowing the entire family unit to come together for quality time. Our Adventures take place at many local attractions including the Columbus Zoo, COSI, King's Island, Cleveland Cavaliers games and the Imagination Station in Toledo. In fact, just last Friday we hosted over 4,000 enrollees at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium.

Currently, A Kid Again has more than 23,000 Ohioans enrolled, representing all 88 counties. According to Nationwide Children's Hospital, there are 125,000 of these families in our state.

A Kid Again serves over 300 medical conditions, many of which don't have a non-profit to support them. We create opportunities to improve the mental health and overall wellness of the entire family unit through recurring recreational therapy activities. Research conducted by Nationwide Children's Hospital demonstrates that 95% of our families report increased emotional well-being and 89% of the children we serve have an increased quality of life. Let me be clear: this investment in A Kid Again is an investment in the mental health of Ohio families raising children with life-threatening conditions.

Chair Dolan, thank you for the privilege of submitting written testimony. A Kid Again is honored to have been included in the Senate Substitute Bill and thanks all members of the Senate Finance Committee for their support.

Central Ohio Chapter

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